

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 SCCT-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /114 W

----- 069383

R 271040Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3677

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJ: GOI AGAIN REJECTS SETTLEMENT IN SAMARIA

REF: TEL AVIV 4664

1. PM RABIN AND MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO GALILI HAVE REJECTED REQUEST BY GROUP DESIRING TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT IN SAMARIA. REPLY TO GROUP'S REQUEST CAME APPROXIMATELY WEEK LATER THAN ORIGINALLY PROMISED BY RABIN (PARA 3 REFTEL). GALILI, SPEAKING AS CHAIRMAN OF MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR SETTLEMENTS, REITERATED GOI POSITION THAT SETTLEMENT PRIORITIES WERE GOLAN HEIGHTS, JORDAN VALLEY, RAFAH APLROACHES AND JERUSALEM AREA.

2. A SPOKESMAN FOR SETTLEMENT GROUP WARNED THAT SUBSEQUENT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SETTLEMENT IN SAMARIA COULD BE ON MUCH LARGER SCALE

"FOR EXAMPLE 10,000." HE CLAIMED SOME 7,000 PEOPLE

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WERE INVOLVED IN SEBASTIA ATTEMPT AND RECENT INFORMAL MEETINGS

APPEAR TO INDICATE TO SETTLEMENT GROUP THAT THEY COMMAND SUB-STANTIAL SUPPORT. THIS POINT WAS UNDERLINED TN TELEVISION EVENING AUGUST 25 BY GROUP SPOKESMAN WHO CLAIMED THAT SUPPORT EXTENDED EVEN INTO LABOR PARTY.

3. PRESS REPORTS THAT GROUP WHICH IN JUNE WANTED TO SETTLE AT SHILO MET WITH GALILI AUGUST 21. SOURCES WITHIN MOVEMENT ARE REPORTED AS SAYING THAT OTHER POSSIBLE SETTLEMENT LOCATIONS WERE DISCUSSED. ONE SITE MENTIONED WAS KOHAV SHAHAR, BETWEEN SHILO AND JERICO.

4. PRESS ALSO MENTIONS THAT SECRETARIAT OF GUSH EMUNIM HAS SENT CABLE TO RABIN, GALILI AND DEFMIN PERES REQUESTING ANOTHER URGENT MEETING AND ACCUSING GOI OF SUPPRESSING PIONEER SPIRIT. GUSH EMUNIM IS RELIGIOUS GROUP WHICH WAS INVOLVED IN ATTEMPT TO SETTLE SEBASTIA.

5. COMMENT: THERE IS CERTAINLY SUFFICIENT SPACE WITHIN PRE-1967 BORDERS TO SATISFY "PIONEER SPIRIT." HOWEVER, ORTHODOX RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND NRP APPEAR TO SENSE THEY HAVE POPULAR ISSUE WITH WHICH TO CONFRONT GOVERNMENT. FIGURES CITED PARA 2 ABOVE ARE GROSSLY INFLATED, IN TERMS BOTH OF WHAT ACTUALLY OCCURRED AT SEBASTIA AND OF WHAT SIZE TURNOUT COULD REALISTICALLY BE SUSPECTED IN FUTURE. POINT IS, HOWEVER, THAT CONFRONTATION WITH EVEN MUCH SMALLER GROUP WOULD BE POLITICALLY EMBARRASSING FOR GOI.
KEATING

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